

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

Balad Air Base, Iraq

Red Tail Flyer

Home of the Tuckagee Warrior

The Legend Continues...

Volume 2

Issue 22

www.afnews.af.mil/internal/papers/Balad.pdf

May 31, 2004

F-16s arrive at Balad



LEFT: A F-16 Viper touches down May 27 on the Balad runway. It was the first of the fighters to come from the Rocky Mountain Air National Guard.

BELOW: Senior Airman Matthew Hall directs an F-16 Viper into position shortly after the aircraft arrived to Balad. The F-16 Fighter Squadron is the newest unit added to Balad's 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing and will begin flying missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

By Capt. Morshe Araujo
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

The 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing expanded its air mission over the skies of Iraq when U.S. Air Force F-16 Vipers from the Colorado Air National Guard's 140th Fighter Wing, the New Mexico Air National Guard's 150th Fighter Wing, and the Montana Air National Guard's 120th Fighter Wing, landed at Balad May 27.

According to Lt. Col. Curtis Hughes, 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron commander, the base's new flying squadron will work in concert with the Army's Joint Tactical Center in providing support to patrols and convoys.

"Our mission will be to provide coalition ground forces combat airpower support," said Colonel Hughes.

Approximately 250 strong, the 332nd



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Keith Brown

EFS aviation package consists of the aircraft and all the people needed, from maintainers to intelligence personnel to pilots, to conduct the unit's mission.

"The fighter squadron is a rainbow of assets from the Colorado, New Mexico and Montana Air National Guard units," explained Colonel Hughes, who also said the unit deployed once last year in sup-

port of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The F-16C has tremendous capabilities ranging from its advanced targeting pod to the laser and GPS-guided weapons that it carries, Colonel Hughes said.

"Also, all of our pilots are trained and

See VIPER, page 8

Commander's Corner

Today is time to reflect on heroes past

By Brig. Gen. F.C. Williams
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
Commander

I am pleased to have the opportunity to share a few thoughts with you on this Memorial Day, when we pause to pay tribute to those who have died



while answering the call to duty. Honoring their sacrifice serves to remind us not only of the cost of war, but more importantly the price of peace. Today we observe our nation's 136th Memorial Day, whose origins can be traced back to the Civil War.

Today, you are part of an expeditionary force that takes the battle to the enemy so that our country might be safe from those who would attack us on our own soil. As a nation we have no alternative but to wage war against those who have already declared war on us. This is a fight for freedom, freedom of a kind that is found in precious few countries in the world. It is precisely because we guarantee every individual liberty and opportunity that our country is the strongest in the world.

You here at Balad make up a new generation of defenders. You have deployed from all corners of the world to fight the war against terrorism. As we honor fallen patriots from the past, let us acknowledge equally those of today. One was a member of our own 332nd — Airman Antoine J. Holt, who lost his life to a mortar round in the early morning hours of April 10th. His death serves as a reminder that this has been a bloody year in America's war on terror. More than 700 U.S. service members have lost their lives, most in our continuing fight to bring stability to Iraq.

This fight is a global fight. The weapons and the threat may have changed, but the reason we fight has not. We are defenders of the American way of life, a way of life our Founding Fathers enshrined in the Declaration of Independence when they stated, "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that we are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Each of us as defenders of our nation's ideals has earned the right to be treated with dignity and respect. As Airmen you are the cream of the crop. You are part of a military that reflects the core values upon which our nation was founded—and which you serve honorably. Your self-

less dedication to duty and country ensures the ideals which our forefathers held dear will be preserved.

As we set aside this day to appropriately pay respect to our nation's fallen patriots, I urge you to recommit yourselves to the ideals which have made our country unique among the nations in the world. This past Saturday, we dedicated a national memorial in memory of the 400,000 Americans who fought and died in the greatest conflict our nation has ever known — WWII. Our responsibility to remember therefore does not end on Memorial Day. It isn't limited to one day out of the year. And just as we are charged with maintaining the memory of our fallen comrades, we know we are also in the hearts and minds of our units and families back home, who are proud of the important role we fulfill here with the 332nd.

Whether or not we have lost a family member or friend to the horrors of war, we as Americans continue to share in one another's loss, just as we share in the blessings of a free nation. Again, let me thank you for your courage and the sacrifices you have each made. I am proud to serve as your commander here at Balad ... and yes, our flag still waves over the land of the free and home of the brave as we all salute our fallen heroes on this Memorial Day.

No matter what your rank take initiative

By Maj. Jeremy Novak
332nd Expeditionary Security Forces
Squadron

Over the last few weeks, I'm sure everyone has heard accolades about AEF 9/10 replacing the 7/8 rotation, and the transition of Balad Air Base from a combat zone expedient ramp into a long-term strategic hub for Iraq. Our successes are normally aggregated above the squadron level; i.e. the number of flight missions, tons of cargo, number of pas-

sengers, etc. However, the building block of these incredible achievements is the effort of individual people. Based on my experience, an important leadership trait to both young officers and the enlisted corps is "initiative."

Initiative is what sets unit top performers apart from their peers in any organization. Troops with initiative often appear more professional, and unit leadership refers to them as "go-getters" or

"informal leaders." For successful advancement in the military, initiative is more important than mental capability or ASVAB scores. Many commanders have said that they would take one motivated, self-starter over a whole team of Ivy-league graduates if given the choice. Furthermore, many successful SNCOs attribute their promotions and annual awards recognition to initiative and

See INITIATIVE, page 8

News

Balad post office moves to new location

By Airman 1st Class J.S. Groves

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

Public Affairs

The Balad main post office recently moved to a new location.

The 175th AG Company (Postal) began transitioning its operations May 22 from its previous location near Sustainer Theater to the old DFAC 1 building, next to the refueling station, off of Pennsylvania Avenue. The grand opening took place May 24 when the new facility opened its doors to customers.

"The new facility is much more professional with a cleaner look, newer flooring and best of all — air conditioning," said Sgt. Amaury Figueroa, NCO in charge of finance operations.

More than 35 personnel run the postal operations and are pulled from various locations such as including the 313th Postal Squadron out of Puerto Rico, 350th Postal Squadron out of Texas and the 449th Postal Squadron out of North Carolina.

"We moved to our new location to provide a bigger area for customer's to utilize and upgrade our look as much as possible. We don't have to worry about as much dust at our new facilities. At our previous location it was older and not really a good place to conduct business. We are very happy to have this new facility," Sergeant Figueroa said.

"Before we moved a lot of our work was done out in the customer service area. We also only had one office to utilize," said Sergeant Figueroa. "Now we have better working areas, loading docks that aren't an eye sore and more office space to take care of administrative issues. We also are glad to have a break room now."



Photo by Airman 1st Class J.S. Groves

The Balad post office celebrated its Grand Opening May 24. The post office was moved to the old DFAC 1, next to the refueling station, off Pennsylvania Ave. The post office offers a more professional area and air conditioning.

"The air conditioning makes it a lot more comfortable place to work and also a place for our customers to get in out of the heat while they send off their packages," said Spc. Sheila Pilon, finance clerk, who has been in country since January.

"Our facilities offer many services just like a post offices back in the States," she added.

The post office offers packaging tape and various size boxes for customers, when they are available.

"The base exchange and post offices abroad charge for packing materials. We try to keep boxes and packing tape in

stock, and put it out for our customers to take as much as they need for free," added Sergeant Figueroa.

The post office has had a steady flow since the relocation. However, business is expected to increase as people begin rotating out, said Specialist Pilon.

She also added patience is always appreciated. "We have military, federal and postal regulation to adhere to. We ask everyone to work with us when we handle their packages."

On behalf of the postal personnel, please ensure packages remain open until they are inspected and taped.

D-Day Film Festival at the T-Town Movie Tent

Friday

8 a.m. -- Band Of Brothers
10 p.m. -- Longest Day
12 a.m. -- Saving Private Ryan

Saturday

8 a.m. -- Longest Day
12 p.m. -- Saving Private Ryan
6 p.m. -- Band of Brothers

Sunday

8 a.m. -- Saving Private Ryan
12 p.m. -- Band of Brothers
12 a.m. -- Longest Day

Feature

Navajo chronicals reservation life to Air Force way of life

By Capt. Morshe Araujo

*332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs*

Twelve years ago, Staff Sergeant Tedd Beyale, 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group, knew that he wanted to see the world outside of his native people's reservation, and he knew that the Air Force was the gateway for that dream.

A Navajo Native American, Sergeant Beyale grew up on a ranch in the Navajo Nation. He is the oldest of seven brothers and sister. "I knew that I wanted to see the world," he said. "Joining the Air Force was a better option than becoming a ranch-hand."

The college graduate, who is also working on his masters in Business Management with an emphasis in Information Technology, recalled that growing up; he noticed he and his family were treated different outside of the reservation. "We went to a private school off the reservation. Because of our heritage, there was a lot of tension," he said. "As more Navajos started to enroll in the school, the acceptance began to get better."

Sergeant Beyale said that the elders try and encourage the younger generation to go out and seek higher education, to gain a broader knowledge than what's given on the reservation, hoping that they will return some of that knowledge back into the reservation.

"I try and make a monthly trip back to the reservation," said Sergeant Beyale who also uses the visits as an opportunity to educate his children about their Native American Heritage. "I want them to know where they came from, who they are and not to forget. They're beginning to understand the different lifestyles and ways of our culture. When they outgrow something, they're first thought is to save the item until our next

visit to the reservation."

According to Sergeant Beyale, the reservation has small villages sprinkled throughout its vast boundaries. "The nearest neighbor could be five miles away," he said. "There are places where housing developments are being built in the center of the community in order to bring the elderly members of my tribe closer so that we can take care of them."

Within the communities, various programs are implemented to support the youth like summer hire programs. There are also chapter meetings twice a month to allow members to get together to discuss and plan the future of their village. The chapter even helps provide feed for those who have cattle or sheep.

The one thing Sergeant Beyale misses about living on the reservation is the traditional dances. "So much is put into a dance, like the movements and even the style of outfits. The dances tell a story."

Opportunities for members of his tribe to come together and dance are numerous, from Powwows to ceremonial dances that can last as long as seven days. "A particular ceremony used for traditional healing or a blessing way," said Sergeant Beyale. "It starts off as a couple of days of prayers, singing and dancing. Towards the end of the ceremony, there are three days of celebration."

It is through these ceremonies and events that the Navajo are able to keep in touch, not just with other members of their tribe, but with their heritage.

The Navajo reservation is one of the largest Native American reservations in the country. It spreads across four states. The population, which was cut to only 8,000 after the Long Walk in the 1860's, has grown to more than 210,000 strong. Approximately 4 percent serve in the United States military.



Photo by Tech Sgt. Keith Brown

Staff Sgt. Tedd Beyale

During World War II, more than 300 Navajo radiomen, known as the Navajo Code Talkers, provided the Marines a code that helped them win the battle of Iwo Jima. For Sergeant Beyale, the story of the Navajo Code Talkers was passed down through his family by his great-uncle who served as one of the famed communicators.

"He was part of a special unit of native Americans that worked hard to narrow our language down to specific words," he said. "I'm glad they were finally honored for their service. Their contribution to the war is evident. It might have been minor, but it made a big difference in what we do today, and it saved lives."

As the lead workgroup manager for the 332nd EMSG, Sergeant Beyale keeps a pulse on the groups network systems. Along with staying focus on the job, Sergeant Beyale also has a comical side that helps keep the morale up in his office. "(Sergeant) Beyale always has a way of making us laugh, even on the

News

Predator crew chiefs --

Keeping the leading edge flying

By Airman 1st Class J.S. Groves
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

The Predator RQ-1 and MQ-1 airframes are a unique wave of unmanned aerial vehicles that have only been in the Air Force spotlight for only a few years.

Keeping the Predator mission running is the same as any other aircraft. It takes hard work, elbow grease and a 'go get 'em' attitude. Historically crew chiefs have risen to these requirements to maintain the aircraft's mission effectiveness, and for the Predator crew chiefs, it is only the beginning.

Due to the newness of the Predator program most crew chiefs have been pulled from other airframes.

"The Predator is a more technical airframe than most others in our field," said Staff Sgt. Jeremy Depeyster, a crew chief out of the 757th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Tiger Flight, in Indian Springs Air Force Auxiliary Field, Nev. "It always presents a new challenge every time we do another mission."

The Predator is capable of flying 12 hours straight and is constantly in the air throughout the Iraq area of responsibility. Sorties are flown almost every day of the month.

"The aircraft is more fragile than the average airframe," said Sergeant Depeyster. "It is fairly simple to work on, but it poses a different problem every time we have to work on it."

"We are used to having four or five aircraft, but here we have many more," said Airman 1st Class Aaron Barber, also of the 757th AMXS, Tiger Flight, who was only there for six months before he was on his first deployment. "It keeps things busy."

"The engine is different than other aircraft," said Airman Barber. "It is original and new to our traditional crew chief position."

Like other aircraft, the Predator must have its maintenance logged into the

Corps Automated Maintenance System, also known as CAMS.

"With such a new program we log more CAMS on Predator than any other aircraft I have worked on," said Sergeant Depeyster, who formerly worked on A-10s. "We are setting up the system and parameters for how maintenance will be done in the future."

With rivalry between crew chiefs who defend their respective airframes, the Predator can hold its own.

"They (other crew chiefs) can make fun of it all they want, but the Army troops here love us and we do a lot for this area. We can see things they can't," said Sergeant Depeyster.

When the crew chiefs aren't maintaining the aircraft, they get to watch local missions via an in-house monitor.

"Seeing our plane in action makes it all worth it," said Depeyster, who has been deployed more than 500 days since he began working with the Predator 3 years ago.

"Some people don't think they can make a difference. I do, because I see the end results when we can protect the base and look out for our Army and Air Force guys on the ground outside the

perimeter," said Airman Barber.

"Our crews are doing an outstanding job getting the mission done," said Capt. David Kendall, 46th ERS maintenance officer. "Crew chiefs hold an essential part to keep aircraft running."

With longer sorties than typical squadron missions and higher maintenance needs, the crew chiefs are kept busy, he added.

Crew chiefs work an average of 12 hours a day, six days a week and sometimes more.

"I am proud of every one of them. They all work their hearts out. (Sergeant) Depeyster is a superior troop and if there was a go-to guy when we need something done, he would be the one," said Captain Kendall.

"I value the experience working on the Predator, but it can tend to be a hard life with constant travel and long hours," said Sergeant Depeyster, whose squadron is one of the most deployed in Air Combat Command.

"Crew chiefs take pride in what we do," he said. "The plane evolves all the time, almost as fast as our maintenance program, but it is a very fulfilling and exciting job."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Prentice Colter

Staff Sgt. James Barr (foreground), revs up the engine of a Predator MQ-1 during a functional check as Senior Airman Christopher Dewey watches for leaks. Both are crew chiefs with the 46th Reconnaissance Squadron.

Feature

FOD pickup important for mission

By Lt. Col. Craig King
*332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
 Chief of Safety*

As I approach the end of my tour as your 332 AEW Chief of Safety, I want to offer sincere congratulations to all 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing personnel for looking after each other – our wing has yet to experience a major non-combat accident during AEF 7/8, a truly incredible feat in what can only be described as a “mishap-rich” environment. In keeping with your proven commitment to safe operations, our Foreign Object Derbis Walk last Wednesday was a resounding success and greatly reduced the short-term chance of a mishap – Thank You! Over 400 airmen scoured the southern part of the airfield for almost three hours, picking up hundreds of pounds of debris that might otherwise have found its way into an F-16 engine. The job’s not over, though — the wing’s FOD Program, which belongs to the 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Group, will require an ongoing effort that demands a drastic change in habit patterns for many of us, especially flightline drivers. Most of you know that even a pebble-sized object can cause extreme damage if introduced into a jet engine, to include the possibility of loss of air-

craft or worse, loss of life. Those results are especially profound in a combat zone – we need every one of our fighter jets, and the crews who fly and maintain them, to take the fight to the bad guys. Plus, even slight damage has a major negative impact, as there are very few extra engines in theater. Each jet engine is a lifeline for the fighter pilot who flies it, and he wagers his existence on the engine’s flawless operation. He can accept “expeditionary” food, shelter and per diem, but we owe him an operating location free of rocks and trash just like in CONUS – the engine doesn’t know the difference. The following bullets are reminders of guidance that will be rigidly enforced in the airfield envi-

ronment – please, help us out!

❑ If your job doesn’t require your presence on the flightline, don’t be there.

❑ Conduct a FOD check before entering the airfield – pry all rocks out of your tires, and if someone drives past you without doing the same, stop them.

❑ Then, stay on the pavement – don’t go fourwheeling through the gravel and dirt.

❑ If you absolutely must exit the pavement, do another FOD check before returning.

❑ If you see FOD anywhere on a paved surface, especially in the south HAS area, taxiway Brava, or the runway, stop and pick it up – remove it from the airfield.

❑ Expect the same of others – enforce these rules.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Keith Brown



ABOVE: Master Sgt. Kenny Denmore, Senior Master Sgt. Debra Huntley and Senior Master Sgt. Annie Reid, all first sergeants, participate in a Foreign Object Debris walk on the runway and taxi ways in preparations for the arrival of F-16’s that will be deployed here.

LEFT: Members of Balad Air Base, Iraq’s 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing conduct a Foreign Object Debris Walk on the runway and taxi ways in preparations for the arrival of F-16’s that will be deployed here.

Feature

Outprocessing -- the last step before your journey home

By 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

In the movies, you could click your heels three times and be there, but leaving Balad is going to take a lot more than that. As we near the end of the Air Expeditionary Force 7/8 Rotation, most people are unaware of the necessary preplanning required to get safely back home.

"There are two processes for traveling out of Balad," said Master Sgt. Lora Aples, superintendent of the 332nd Logistics Readiness Squadron's, Traffic Management Flight, "and both Leaving Balad takes more than 3 clicks of your heels. There's no place like home methods differ from what most people are accustomed to." The process starts before a person picks up an out processing checklist provided by the Personnel Support for Contingency Office, or PERSCO office. Redeploying members must submit a Personnel Release Letter to their Unit Travel Reps who will turn it in to the Traffic Management Flight to initiate travel arrangements. The release letter contains critical information, such as the individual's name, rank, the date an individual is released to depart for home, and their home base and it must be signed by the unit commander, these are all necessary to begin making travel arrangements. "For those people stationed at bases like Moody and Cannon, we'd like to maximize the use of opportune airlift (space available) travel to get them all the way home, using the C-17s and C-5s that regularly fly through here," Sergeant Aples said. For everyone else, reservations will be set up on the Patriot Express rotator aircraft that fly through Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar or Kuwait. "Once there we have 30 confirmed reservations on a Patriot Express flight, we'll request dedicated airlift from the Logistics Readiness Flight (LGRR) through the Joint Movement Center at Al Udeid to transport personnel from Balad to meet their respective

Patriot Express mission." Personnel should begin working with their UTRs at least 30 days prior to their anticipated departure. "The Patriot Express missions fill up relatively fast, so the more notice we get, the better," said Sergeant Aples. "We can always work short notice arrangements when required, as long as they are the exception and not the norm." Approximately 1-3 days prior to their release date, redeploying personnel will receive an out processing briefing scheduled by LGRR. This briefing will take care of Medical, Life Skills and Finance. Members must complete a medical post-deployment health assessment. UTRs must turn these in to EMEDS NLT 5 days prior to each person's schedule briefings. The assessment documents an individual's exposure to health threatening diseases like tuberculosis, malaria and other diseases or environmental hazards, such as burning human feces/industrial waste. The

step allows caregivers at an individual's home station to assess and rule out symptoms based solely on what they were exposed to while deployed. Prior to the out processing briefings held at the T-Town movie tent, the medical group looks at the records of those redeploying, (DD Form 2766) and make sure their visits to the clinic have been properly annotated and filed in their record and that their post deployment health assessment (DD Form 2796) assessments are properly filled out. With those actions complete, the records are sealed in a manila envelope and given to the member at the briefing to hand carry back to home station. The travelers are also advised on their show time for the flight, which can vary, based on the scheduled ground time for the aircraft," Sergeant Aples said. Although some of your items will be signed off at the briefing, some other stops on

————— See OUTPROCESS, page 8

A message from --

Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. John P. Jumper

Each summer we lose Airmen in preventable accidents during a period we have begun to calling the "101 Critical Days of Summer." Last summer we lost 36 Airmen to needless mishaps – many more than in 2002, and almost double the number of 2001. Despite concentrated focus on mishap prevention, we have seen an increase in the number of injuries and deaths due to senseless accidents. To date, we have accumulated our worst fatal mishap record in over 10 years. It is time to reverse this trend.

As you begin to plan your well-earned summer vacation, remember to make safety part of your plans. Some of you are planning vacations that will include sailing, rock climbing, sky diving, motorcycle riding and other challenging activities. These can be fun, but they all involve risk. Even if you don't partake in risky activities, remember to stay alert on the road, and to plan your trip with breaks and rest stops included in the travel time. Almost 90 percent of our fatal accidents occur off-duty, and the overwhelming majority involve private motor vehicles.

Everyday our superb Airmen demonstrate their professionalism and training in a dangerous profession. The same standards you embrace the job pertain to life outside the gate as well. When you relax from the job, don't relax your better judgement.

The Air Force goal remains zero mishaps; I ask every Airman to make that your personal goal. Let's turn this thing around!

Feature

NAVAJO, from page 4

days we didn't want to do anything but sit in our little corners," said Staff Sgt. Heather Hutton, 332nd EMSG Information Manager. "He is always quick with a joke!"

Sergeant Hutton said that the one thing she admires most about Sergeant Beyale is his sense of duty and perseverance. "Tedd will always work at a task or a problem until he has it completely figured out. No matter how frustrated he gets, he will never give up! That's something that I wish I had."

And it was through determination and great resolution that the Navajo Nation and other Native American tribes are still an integral part of our culture and our history. Sergeant Beyale is proud of his heritage and the service that he's doing for his country during peacetime and wartime.

"I'm proud to be a Native American first, that's in my blood," he said. "And then after that, I'm proud to be an American!"

OUTPROCESS, from page 7

the out processing checklist include out processing your orderly room to ensure that Letters of Evaluation and decorations are completed and additional duties have been transferred. UTRs will sign the checklist when travel arrangements have been made. Individuals must also physically check out of lodging on their day of departure. Be prepared to turn linen (sheets, blankets, and pillows), so they can be cleaned and re-issued. "We also ask that people clean up their vacated areas thoroughly," said Master Sgt. William Lindley, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Lodging and Laundry office, 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron. "Considering the conditions and our location (in Iraq), we are trying to make the next individual's stay as comfortable as possible." 332nd AEW Chapel services asked that people bring unused toiletry items to the Chapel for those that may arrive here and forget a few key items. "People are so appreciative when they find out we have free toiletry items available. It is a great use for items that people would otherwise throw away." Also in the day of departure, individuals will be transported to ELRS Supply to pick up their weapons and returned the Personal Protective Gear that was issued. Once the checklist is completed it is returned to PERSCO on the individual's day of departure. The PERSCO office is open 24 hours a day and a checklist can be picked up by the UTR any time as long as a copy of their release letter signed by their commander. If you do not know who your Unit Travel Manager is, contact your administrative section.

INITIATIVE, from page 2

professionalism rather than smarts.

I saw the actions of one Airman make a huge impact on day-to-day operations at a deployed location. An airman first class entry controller to the special operations group restricted area at San Vito AB, Italy during Operations Joint Guard and Silver Wake in 1997 had a vision for improvement with the entry control process. He knew improvements needed to be made with

the visitor badge system, entry authority letters, the key box, and continuity binder. This Airman took it upon himself to make all the necessary improvements. He obtained materials from supply, drafted new post instructions in his spare time, and organized the entry control point into a logical, user-friendly workspace. The 700th SOG personnel who processed through the ECP daily, and fellow security forces Airmen who worked in that

VIPER, from page 1

qualified in the use of night vision goggles, and everyone is experienced in CAS missions," said Colonel Hughes. "That's the one thing we feel the Air National Guard brings to the total force ... experience!"

Colonel Hughes said the welcome reception he and his unit received since arriving to Balad has been wonderful. "The air expeditionary wing and the expeditionary operations group has done a tremendous job in preparing the base for our arrival," he said. "We couldn't have asked for any better support."

Keeping in line with the 332nd's rich Tuskegee Airmen heritage, the 332nd EFS has adopted the name the "Red Tails." The tail of the aircraft even has a red stripe painted on its surface. "This is to show our commitment to the Tuskegee Airman tradition," said Colonel Hughes.

A strategic hub, Balad Air Base helps feed essential supplies to the troops in the field through airlift support. The F-16s now provide added protection to replenishing the military's war fighting capabilities.

"We're extremely proud to have the F-16 mission here," said Brig. Gen. F.C. Williams, commander of the 332nd AEW. "Their presence will help continue to the global fight on terrorism."

ECP, recognized the young man's initiative. He was spoken of highly until his departure, and was coined by every general officer visiting the base. As a young Airman on a 4-month deployment, he greatly improved the work environment and quality of life for hundreds of people.

Many people see the need for improvements around Balad AB and LSA Anaconda. It's a relatively new location for Air Force operations with a constantly expanding mission and population. Most of the time, people just complain about flawed processes and below standard living or working conditions. Take the initiative. Don't just complain about the situation, do something about it.

Feature

Air Force approves wear of GWOT Expeditionary Medal

The Air Force has authorized wear of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary medal approved by President Bush last year.

The Department of Defense campaign medal applies to active-duty, Reserve and Guard personnel deployed abroad on or after Sept. 11, 2001, for Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"The criterion is pretty clear, so members who believe they are eligible can begin wearing it," said Tech. Sgt. Jeff Simmons, superintendent of the Recognition Programs Branch here.

To qualify, an individual must have been assigned or attached to a unit in OEF/OIF and served 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days in one of the following specific geographic areas: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bulgaria (Bourgas), Crete, Cyprus, Diego Garcia, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Romania (Constanta), Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkey (east of 35 degrees east latitude), Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Yemen, that portion of the Arabian Sea north of 10 degrees north latitude and west of 68 degrees longitude, Bab el Mandeb, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Aqaba, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Suez, that portion of the Mediterranean Sea east of 28 degrees east longitude, Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Strait of Hormuz and the Suez Canal.

The medal will only be awarded once, regardless of how many times an individual returns to serve in OEF or OIF. There are no service stars, or other devices authorized. However, battle stars may be authorized for personnel who engaged in actual combat. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the approving authority for battle stars.

The medal follows the Kosovo Campaign medal in precedence and can be viewed at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Mar2003/200303134a.jpg>.

The medal will be issued by local Military Personnel Flights when it becomes available and will also be available through AAFES later this year.

For more information, members can contact the local MPF or call the Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775.

(AFPC is located at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas)

Travel voucher information

By Staff Sgt. A.C. Eggman

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

Public Affairs

Balad Airmen, who are returning home over the next few weeks, need to prepare now to deal with travel voucher issues. Airmen will be required to file a settlement travel voucher when they return to their home station, said Maj. Martin Memminger, Balad Finance Office. "For final settlements, they need to keep all their receipts, all accruals (vouchers) they received over here," said Major Memminger. All accruals vouchers filed while deployed at Balad will be deducted from the final settlement voucher. Airmen should have already filed a travel voucher after they arrived if they used their government travel card. Travel vouchers are used to determine dates for certain entitlements and if airmen don't file their voucher in a timely manner, they run the risk of being late on payments or being overpaid. "They should have filed an accrual voucher immediately after they arrived if they owed anything on their GTC," said Major Memminger. "We try to get people to pay off their GTC before it becomes overdue. It's not paid through us; they (travel vouchers) are faxed back to their home station and there is a lag time." Major Memminger said there are some other things to remember when redeploying.

Keeping copies of everything has filed while here will help when filing the final voucher, he said. If a person filed an accrual voucher while deployed, this should be annotated in the advance block of the DD Form 1351-2, Travel Voucher. This will eliminate the chance of overpayment. "You will need to claim everything from beginning to end," he said. Even though airmen may have filed vouchers after they arrived and receipts weren't necessary, receipts will be needed when they file their final voucher for reimbursement. Some of the most common reimbursable items are excess baggage, food, lodging, automatic teller fees, transportation costs, airfare, baggage carts, and postage for professional gear mailed home. "It's also important to keep accurate tracking of dates of travel, stops and layovers," said Tech. Sgt. Mark Deahl, 332nd AEW Finance Office paying agent.

If airmen haven't kept track of their travels to Balad, they need to start thinking about it now and annotate dates. "People put wrong dates and don't list all the stops, dates and times," explained Major Memminger. "Accurate tracking of dates of travel are important. If dates and times don't match your orders it could delay payment." Filing a travel voucher correctly and immediately upon return will not only ensure accurate travel pay and entitlements, but also will mean getting paid sooner.

Super Sports Day



Photo by Staff Sgt. Prentice Colter



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Keith Brown

Around Balad

People in your neighborhood



Senior Airman Lucas Cruz

Home station: Travis AFB, Calif.

Unit: 332nd EAMXS

Arrived in the AOR: May 17

Family: My beautiful wife, a son and daughter.

Hobbies: I enjoy working on my '74 Impala, fishing and spending time with my family.

How do I contribute to the mission? As a C-5 aircraft maintainer I perform minor maintenance, refuel the aircraft, download and up load cargo.

What is my favorite aspect of this deployment? I like the fact I can serve my country.

Besides my family, what do I miss back home? I miss my bed, fast food and a nice long shower.

T-Town Chapel

Protestant service

Sunday

9:15 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Service

5:30 p.m. - Traditional Service

Monday

7 p.m. - Purpose Driven Life

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. - Choir practice

8 p.m. - Bible Study

Friday

6:30 p.m. - Choir practice

8 p.m. - Women's Bible Study

Catholic service

Sunday

Noon - Mass

Tuesday

7:30 p.m. - Mass

Friday

5:30 p.m. - Mass

LDS service

Sunday

7 p.m. - Sacrament meeting

Thursday

7:30 p.m. - Family Home Evening

All Denominations

Nightly

9 p.m. - Evening Prayer for Peace under the Stars



Chaplain Porter

Public Health Note



"Public Health Note" is a column that answers frequently asked Public Health questions. To submit questions send them to Kevin.Berkel@BLAB.aorcentaf.af.mil or Lawrence.Noel@BLAB.aorcentaf.af.mil.

Q: I went to newcomers' briefing the other day, and something about sand flies and leishmaniasis was mentioned during the medical briefing. What's up with all of this concern for sand flies and leishmaniasis?

A: Sand flies are found throughout Iraq, and Balad AB / LSA -Anaconda is no exception. Both Air Force and Army medical personnel capture large numbers of sand flies each week. Female sand flies are the carriers of leishmaniasis. Recent state of the art testing of the sand flies captured here revealed 2 percent of the sand fly population were carriers of cutaneous (skin based) leishmaniasis. Open lesions (aka "the Baghdad Boil") almost anywhere on the body characterize this form of leishmaniasis. The less severe form can be treated, but will probably leave scars. A more severe form of the disease is known as visceral leishmaniasis. This form attacks the internal organs (i.e. spleen, liver, etc.), and can lead to an extreme loss of weight and other symptoms. If left untreated, this disease can be fatal. Symptoms of leishmaniasis can take from a couple of weeks to almost a year to develop. Both forms of the disease are treatable if correctly diagnosed. Prevention through use of insect repellents, treated bednets and clothing, and minimizing skin exposure when the insects are known to be most active is the best way avoid leishmaniasis. Sand flies are most active from around dusk until midnight.

For more information on leishmaniasis please check out the following web site:

<http://www.pdhealth.mil/downloads/gisleishmaniasis.pdf>

Sustainer Movie Schedule



Today

- ☐ Jersey Girl — 3 p.m.
- ☐ Troy — 6 p.m.
- ☐ Secret Window — 9 p.m.

Tuesday

- ☐ Troy — 3 p.m.
- ☐ The Prince and Me — 6 p.m.
- ☐ Dirty Dancing — 9 p.m.

Wednesday

- ☐ The Ladykillers — 3 p.m.
- ☐ Troy — 6 p.m.
- ☐ Jersey Girl — 9 p.m.

Thursday

- ☐ Jersey Girl — 3 p.m.
- ☐ The Ladykillers — 6 p.m.
- ☐ Troy — 9 p.m.

Friday

- ☐ The Alamo — 3 p.m.
- ☐ Shrek 2 — 6 p.m.
- ☐ The Whole Ten Yards — 9 p.m.

Saturday

- ☐ Home on the Range — 3 p.m.
- ☐ The Whole Ten Yards — 6 p.m.
- ☐ Shrek 2 — 9 p.m.



Happy Memorial Day!



The Red Tail Flyer

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. F.C. Williams
Commander

Capt. Morshe Araujo
Chief, Public Affairs

**Airman 1st Class
J.S. Groves**
Editor, *The Red Tail Flyer*

Published by the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs Office.

This unfunded Air Force newsletter is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of *The Red Tail Flyer* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

Editorial content is prepared, edited and

provided by the Public Affairs staff of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing - Balad Air Base, Iraq. The public affairs office can be contacted at 458-1149, or by e-mail at: redtailflyer@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil or 332aew.pa@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil

All photos are Air Force photos, unless otherwise indicated.

The deadline for all editorial submissions is 5 p.m. the Tuesday prior to the date of publication.

Feature



KNOW WHAT THIS IS?

Each week, the *Red Tail Flyer* staff will take a photo from around Balad AB. If you can identify the object or item, shoot us an e-mail at: *redtailflyer@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil.* with "Identify This" in the subject block. The person who sends in the correct answer first will receive a prize and have their name printed in the Red Tail Flyer. Congratulations to Tech. Sgt. Jeffery Byrd, 332nd ELRS/ATOC for correctly identifying the carpet fringe.

Numbers 2 Know

☎ CC Support Staff.....	458-1160
☎ CE Cust Service	458-9027
☎ Chaplain's Office.....	458-1144
☎ Command Post.....	458-1122
☎ Comm Help Desk.....	458-1000
☎ Contracting.....	458-1030
☎ EOD.....	458-1103
☎ Finance.....	458-1529
☎ Fire Dept.....	911/458-1059
☎ JDOC	458-1801
☎ Lodging.....	458-1501
☎ Logistics Plans.....	458-1161
☎ Medical Clinic	458-1038
☎ OSI.....	458-1169
☎ PERSCO.....	458-1128
☎ Public Affairs.....	458-1149
☎ Public Health.....	458-1036
☎ Protocol.....	458-1182
☎ Recreation Center.....	458-1498
☎ Safety.....	458-1151
☎ T-Town Mayor.. ..	458-9024
☎ Red Tail Flyer	458-1096
☎ Supply.....	458-1193
☎ TMO.....	458-1192